(*a*) The members explained that difficulties were experienced by license-holders owing to the fact of their licenses for previous years being taken away by the authorities, which gave room for subordinate police officers to annoy the people.

Reply of Government.—(*a*) The question of empowering Amildar Magistrates to renew old licenses will be considered.

(*b*) Orders will be passed enabling officers to issue licenses for a period not exceeding three or four years if the stamp payable in respect of the application for the period for which the license is asked for is paid in a lump.

SUBJECT No. 61.

Game license fee.

Messrs. Bettagere Subramanya Bhatta and Halagar Subbaraya, Koppa Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The license granted on a two-rupee paper is restricted for use in the village where the licensee resides. This is hard. It may be made applicable to the whole taluk in which he resides.

Reply of Government.—Licenses referred to by the members will be made operative within the limits of the hobli in which the licensee resides.

SUBJECT No. 62.

The Criminal Investigation Centre Scheme.

Messrs. M. Venkataramaiya, C. Venkataramaiya and Chowdaiya, Channarayapatna Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The introduction of the Investigation Centre Scheme has caused very great inconvenience and delay in the investigation of crimes, since dafadars in charge of sub-stations are not authorized to take up such work. Investigating officers are few and hence it causes delay in the transmission of information regarding crimes. It is therefore prayed that dafadars may be authorized to investigate cases as before.

Reply of Government.—The scheme is yet in the experimental stage, having been only recently introduced. It is based on the principle that low-paid officers should not be entrusted with the power of investigating cases. The great objection to invest dafadars with this power is that good men cannot be had for the pay given to dafadars. There is no reason why competent dafadars should not be empowered to hold the investigation, in special cases.

SUBJECT No. 63.

Inquests.

Messrs. M. Venkataramaiya, C. Venkataramaiya and D. Chowdaiya, Channarayapatna Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—As all the police dafadars in charge of police stations are not empowered to hold inquests in cases of unnatural deaths, the matter will have to be investigated by those police officers who are so empowered. This means a lot of delay and inconvenience particularly to Hindus who do not generally take their food till the dead body is disposed of. It is therefore prayed that this rule may be modified.

Reply of Government.—The existing rules allow investiture of police dafadars with the power of holding inquests. If special cases of hardship consequent on these